GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2424
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
MOUNTAIN ECO SYSTEM
Pandey Dr. Mahendra Nath

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mountain eco-system is important for tracking the variability of weather systems in the country;

(b) if so, whether mountains can be treated as earth resource like oceans;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has any plan for bringing mountain eco-systems within the ambit of the Earth Sciences; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a-b) No Madam. However, Indian summer monsoon circulation is strongly influenced by the geometry of Himalayan-Tibetan Plateau, its complex orography along the Western Ghats and by the overall ocean-land configuration. On the other hand, understanding vulnerability of the mountain eco-systems to the short term and long term variability in the weather conditions and monsoon in particular is of critical significance.

(c) Yes Madam as far as storage and supply of fresh water resources is concerned. Himalayan snow, ice and its glaciers form source of fresh water for the perennial rivers of the north India and Western Ghats serve as source of rain-fed freshwater for all east flowing peninsular rivers.

(d-e) At present there is no proposal to bring mountain eco-systems within the ambit of Ministry of Earth Sciences. However, the Government's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) envisages efforts for sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem to evolve management measures for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayan glaciers and mountain eco-system resources.